



Summarization

**A Key Skill in Reading
Comprehension**

**Summary is the
foundational skill
of reading.**

**It is the heart of
comprehension and the
very essence of what
you should be able to
do when reading.**



Summarizing and Paraphrasing are not the same thing.

Summarizing

- A shortened version of the original text
- The essential and key points

Paraphrasing

- Restating ideas in different words
- Putting things in one's own words

FEATURES

- Short
- Main Ideas
- Reflect Structure
- Important Details

- o A summary should be shorter than the original (a paragraph or a page).
- o Stating the main idea is often the most difficult part, unless the author comes right out and states it in the reading.
- o Consider the structure (problem/solution, compare/contrast, cause/effect, etc.) of the original and follow suit.
- o Include the important details that support the main points.

STEPS

1. Read a selection
 - o Choose a text to read and mark it up with annotations (similar to the Think Aloud)
2. Examples
 - o Consider all the times you already use the skill of summarization (i.e. telling about a movie).
3. Focus on main ideas
 - o Decide on the top 5 main ideas
 - o Since the main ideas are drawn from different parts of the text, think about transitions and ways to connect the distinct ideas.
4. Connect the main ideas
5. Learn the language
 - o Use the language of academic writing (i.e. "According to the author...")